

CLAIMS

- [1] A cooker comprising:
- (a) a heating chamber in which foods are placed;
 - (b) an external circulation path provided outside the heating chamber;
 - (c) a blower that sucks in gas inside the heating chamber, and forms, in the external circulation path, a gas flow that makes the sucked gas return to the heating chamber;
 - (d) an exhaust port provided in the external circulation path and located downstream of the blower;
 - (e) a damper provided in the exhaust port; and
 - (f) a control unit that keeps the damper in a position of closing the exhaust port during cooking, and changes the damper to a position of opening the exhaust port in response to a sign that a door of the heating chamber is being opened.
- [2] The cooker of claim 1,
- wherein, after the damper is changed to a position of opening the exhaust port, the control unit continues to operate the blower until a predetermined condition is satisfied.
- [3] The cooker of claim 2,
- wherein the predetermined condition is that a predetermined time period elapses after a sign that the door of the heating chamber is being opened is detected.
- [4] The cooker of claim 2,
- wherein the predetermined condition is that it is determined that the door of the

heating chamber is fully opened.

[5] The cooker of claim 2,
wherein the predetermined condition is that a predetermined time period elapses after
it is determined that the door of the heating chamber is fully opened.

[6] The cooker of one of claims 1 to 5,
wherein the damper selectively closes the external circulation path and the exhaust
port.

[7] The cooker of one of claims 1 to 5,
wherein there is provided a steam generating unit that feeds steam to gas passing
through the external circulation path.